

Amendments to the Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for automating integration of terminological information into a knowledge base, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, into a computer, input terminology information comprising a plurality of input terms and information that specifies ontological relationships among at least two of said input terms;

storing, in said computer, a knowledge base comprising a plurality of ontologies, each one of said ontologies comprising a plurality of nodes hierarchically arranged to depict ontological relationships among said nodes, each node representing a term;

parsing said input terminology information to generate a logical structure that depicts ontological relationships among said input terms in a format compatible with said knowledge base;

determining whether at least one input term ~~exists as~~ matches a node in said knowledge base;

if not, generating a new and independent ontology for said knowledge base comprising said logical structure of said ontological relationships ~~if none of said input terms exist as nodes in said knowledge base~~ ; and

if so, extending said knowledge base by storing data that logically couples said logical structure of said ontological relationships to a node that matches an input term.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for automating integration of terminological information into a knowledge base, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, into a computer, input terminology information comprising a plurality of input terms and ~~relationship information about at least two of said input terms, said relationship information at least one relationship indicator from a set of predetermined relationship indicators, each relationship indicator specifying an ontological relationship~~ relationship among at least two of said input terms;

storing, in said computer, a knowledge base comprising a plurality of ontologies, each one of said ontologies comprising a plurality of nodes, each node representing a term, and comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms;

~~storing a mapping of said relationship information in a format compatible with said ontological relationships depicted in said knowledge base;~~

generating a logical structure of said input terms from said ~~relationship input terminology~~ information, said input terms and said mapping that depicts ontological relationships among said input terms using a mapping table comprising a mapping entry for each relationship indicator in said set of predetermined relationship indicators, each mapping entry comprising a mapping from a relationship indicator to a particular ontological relationship that is in a format compatible with said ontological relationships depicted in said knowledge base; and

integrating said logical structure of said input terms into said knowledge base,
said integrating comprising:

determining whether at least one input term ~~exists as~~ matches a node in
said knowledge base;

if so, extending said knowledge base by storing data that logically
couples said logical structure of said ~~ontological relationships~~ input terms
to a node that matches an input term; and

if not, generating a new and independent ontology for said
knowledge base comprising said logical structure of said ~~ontological~~
~~relationships~~ input terms.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~18~~ 17, further
comprising:

determining whether an input term that matches a node in said knowledge base
connotes a different meaning than said term associated with a node;

if so, then:

deleting said node from its existing one or more associations;

logically coupling any hierarchical associations, if any, with said node so
as to by pass said node deleted;

generating a new node for said input term; and

integrating said new node into said knowledge base based on ontological relationships with associated nodes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising generating alternate forms for said input terms prior to integrating said logical structure of said input terms into said knowledge base.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein receiving input terminology information ~~that specifies ontological relationships among at least two of said input terms~~ comprises receiving information in an ISO 2788 format.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein:
receiving input terminology information comprises receiving broader term ("BT") and narrower term ("NT") relationships among two input terms;

storing a knowledge base comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms comprises storing categories hierarchically arranged to include parent – child relationships and child – parent relationships among categories related hierarchically;

mapping said relationship information comprises mapping BT relationships to parent – child relationships among categories in said knowledge base and comprises mapping NT relationships to child – parent relationships among categories in said knowledge base; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a parent – child relationship between two terms comprising a BT relationship in said input terminological information, and generating a child-parent relationship between two terms comprising a narrower term (NT) relationship in said input terminological information.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving synonym relationships between two terms;

storing a knowledge base comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms comprises storing cross reference associations between nodes;

mapping said relationship information comprises mapping synonym relationships between two terms to cross reference associations between nodes; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a cross reference association between two terms comprising a synonym relationship in said input terminological information.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving related term (“RT”) relationships among at least two input terms;

storing a knowledge base comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms comprises storing cross reference associations between nodes;

mapping said relationship information comprises mapping RT relationships between two terms to cross reference associations between nodes; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a cross reference association between two terms comprising a RT relationship in said input terminological information.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving preferred term ("PT") relationships among at least two input terms;

storing a knowledge base comprises storing a canonical/alternate form index that indexes a canonical form from one or more alternative forms; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a canonical/alternate form index between terms comprising a preferred term (PT) relationship in said input terminological information.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a set of instructions, which when executed, cause the computer to perform the steps of:

receiving, into a computer, input terminology information comprising a plurality of input terms and ~~relationship information about at least two of said input terms, said relationship information~~ at least one relationship indicator from a set of predetermined

relationship indicators, each relationship indicator specifying an ontological relationships relationship among at least two of said input terms;

storing, in said computer, a knowledge base comprising a plurality of ontologies, each one of said ontologies comprising a plurality of nodes, each node representing a term, and comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms;

~~storing a mapping of said relationship information in a format compatible with said ontological relationships depicted in said knowledge base;~~

generating a logical structure of said input terms from said ~~relationship input terminology~~ information, ~~said input terms and said mapping that depicts ontological relationships among said input terms~~ using a mapping table comprising a mapping entry for each relationship indicator in said set of predetermined relationship indicators, each mapping entry comprising a mapping from a relationship indicator to a particular ontological relationship that is in a format compatible with said ontological relationships depicted in said knowledge base; and

integrating said logical structure of said input terms into said knowledge base, said integrating comprising:

determining whether at least one input term ~~exists as~~ matches a node in said knowledge base;

if so, extending said knowledge base by storing data that logically couples said logical structure of said ~~ontological relationships~~ input terms to a node that matches an input term; and

if not, generating a new and independent ontology for said

knowledge base comprising said logical structure of said ~~ontological~~
~~relationships~~ input terms.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim
~~27~~ 26, further comprising:

determining whether an input term that matches a node in said knowledge base
connotes a different meaning than said term associated with a node;

if so, then:

deleting said node from its existing one or more associations;

logically coupling any hierarchical associations, if any, with said node so
as to by pass said node deleted;

generating a new node for said input term; and

integrating said new node into said knowledge base based on ontological
relationships with associated nodes.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in
claim 26, further comprising generating alternate forms for said input terms prior to
integrating said logical structure of said input terms into said knowledge base.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim
26, wherein receiving input terminology information ~~that specifies ontological~~

~~relationships among at least two of said input terms~~ comprises receiving information in an ISO 2788 format.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving broader term (“BT”) and narrower term (“NT”) relationships among two input terms;

storing a knowledge base comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms comprises storing categories hierarchically arranged to include parent – child relationships and child – parent relationships among categories related hierarchically;

mapping said relationship information comprises mapping BT relationships to parent – child relationships among categories in said knowledge base and comprises mapping NT relationships to child – parent relationships among categories in said knowledge base; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a parent – child relationship between two terms comprising a BT relationship in said input terminological information, and generating a child-parent relationship between two terms comprising a narrower term (NT) relationship in said input terminological information.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving synonym relationships between two terms;

storing a knowledge base comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms comprises storing cross reference associations between nodes;

mapping said relationship information comprises mapping synonym relationships between two terms to cross reference associations between nodes; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a cross reference association between two terms comprising a synonym relationship in said input terminological information.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving related term ("RT") relationships among at least two input terms;

storing a knowledge base comprising associations among said nodes that depict ontological relationships among respective terms comprises storing cross reference associations between nodes;

mapping said relationship information comprises mapping RT relationships between two terms to cross reference associations between nodes; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a cross reference association between two terms comprising a RT relationship in said input terminological information.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein:

receiving input terminology information comprises receiving preferred term (“PT”) relationships among at least two input terms;

storing a knowledge base comprises storing a canonical/alternate form index that indexes a canonical form from one or more alternative forms; and

generating a logical structure comprises generating a canonical/alternate form index between terms comprising a preferred term (PT) relationship in said input terminological information.

35. (New) The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein said knowledge base is used by a language processing system to classify, search, or retrieve information.

36. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said knowledge base is used by a language processing system to classify, search, or retrieve information.

37. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein said knowledge base is used by a language processing system to classify, search, or retrieve information.